

None of the cited references, including French Patent No. 1093155, discloses or suggests the liquid flowing, as claimed, upward through the bottom of the stack and, further, between the plates parallel with the corrugations. Particularly in the French patent, the water does not flow, as claimed, upward through the bottom of the stack. In fact, the water is prevented from doing so by the plates 4 or valves 13 extending to the bottom of the cavity as indicated in Figs. 1, 12 and 14. Therefore, claim 41 is patentable over the cited prior art.

Claim 42-43

Claim 42-43 depend from claim 41. The limitations that they add to claim 41 distinguish them further from the prior art. Therefore, claims 42-43 also are patentable.

Claim 44

Claim 44 recites a coalescer comprising a stack of corrugated plates that have corrugations extending upward. The liquid flows upwardly between the plates in a direction parallel with the corrugations and upwardly through the top of the stack.

None of the cited references, including French Patent No. 1093155, discloses or suggests the liquid flowing, as claimed, upwardly between the plates parallel with the corrugations and further upwardly through the top of the stack. Particularly in the French patent, the water does not flow, as claimed, upwardly through the top of the stack. In fact, the water is prevented from doing so by the plates 4 extending to the top of the cavity as indicated in Figs. 1, 12 and 14. Therefore, claim 44 is patentable over the cited prior art.

Claim 45-46

Claim 45-46 depend from claim 44. The limitations that claims 45-46 add to claim 44 distinguish them further from the prior art. Therefore, claims 45-46 also are patentable.

The application should now be in condition for allowance, and allowance is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Mitchell Rose ✓

Mitchell Rose, Patent Agent
Registration No. 47,906
JONES DAY ✓
901 Lakeside Ave.
Cleveland, OH 44114
(216)586-7094

Date: 2/7/05